

We Are Family

Portland's Fazzolari brothers capture the essence of family in America.



See Page A7.

Christmas Lights Up The Grotto

Volunteers spruce up The Grotto for the "Festival of Lights."



See Metro, inside.

Singer Braxton Shines

Toni Braxton's new album is as mesmerizing as she is beautiful.



See Arts & Entertainment, Page B3.

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THE WEEK IN REVIEW

Murder Hits D.C. Population Hard

When 60 citizens reporting for jury duty in a murder trial in Washington, D.C. were recently asked by the judge if they had lost a relative or close friend to a homicide, one-fourth of them stood up. It was a graphic illustration of what years of killings have done to the people of the nation's capital. The city has had the highest murder rate per capita in the last three to four years.

Prescription For Youth Violence

Fewer kids would choose violence if families, schools and community agencies work together as partners, according to the lead author of "Antisocial Behavior in School: Strategies and Best Practices." The book by Hill Walker, director of the University of Oregon Center on Human Development, and other researchers says the problem of youth violence has grown too big for families or schools to overcome alone. The authors are also highly critical of the media, which they call an "addictive drug" that contributes to youth violence.

Christmas Cards Began As Wood

University of Oregon folklorist Sharon Sherman says the first Christmas cards, around 500 years ago, were messages carved on wood. By the 18th century they were made from copper plates. The first modern Christmas card was printed in England in 1843. It's a lithograph that shows a family party and as "A merry Christmas and happy New Year to you." Just five years later, the first commercial cards were being printed.

Father Denies Nicole Simpson Report

Nicole Brown Simpson's father has disputed a magazine report that his slain daughter had written a letter predicting her death at the hands of O.J. Simpson. Star magazine reports that Nicole Simpson wrote in May: "If I am killed my husband, O.J. Simpson, did it." a spokeswoman for the tabloid would not say how the magazine got the letter nor whether the information was paid for.

Jury Convicts Rapper Of Sex Abuse

One day after he was shot in a robbery, rapper Tupac Shakur, 23, was convicted last week of sexually abusing a woman he had invited to his hotel room, but acquitted of more serious sodomy and weapons charges. Shakur and another man were charged with assaulting the 20-year-old woman in Nov. 1993, four days after she had consensual sex with Shakur at a Manhattan dance club and at a hotel.

Aid For Rwanda Goes To Hutus

Tons of donated food and goods are resupplying and fattening Rwanda's exiled Hutu regime as it plots a return to power. The new government, meanwhile is bankrupt and at the mercy of a world seemingly indifferent to its struggle to rebuild a nation. "I'm stumped. And I think it's just scandalous," said Chris Hennemeyer of Catholic Relief Services. "Either there is a massive conspiracy to keep Rwanda down... or the world community is incredibly incompetent."



Third grade student Philicia Boss learns about science as she participates in an investigation of the old growth forest in Grant Park.

Small School Big In Math

The tiniest school in Portland is big in math and science.

Take a look into one of Hollywood Elementary's eight classrooms, buzzing with bugs in wire cages, baby rats snoozing on wood chips, lots of colorful clutter, computers and kids who typically score within the top 25 percent of the state's elementary students.

The kindergarten through Grade 3 school at 3560 N.E. Hollywood Court, has received a \$10,000 state grant as a demonstration site for innovative science and math programs.

All 183 students at the school are taking part in projects and experiments ranging from organic gardening to raising fall Chinook fingerlings.

The strong, integrated science and math programs result from unflagging energy, innovation and cooperation among school staff, parents, neighboring schools and the community, school officials said.

The school is a member of a Grant High School regional alliance that focuses on improving science and math achievement in all Grant neighborhood schools.

Hot Chase For Sheriff's Post

Candidates List Top Priorities

BY PROMISE KING

There's a new race for Multnomah County Sheriff in the Portland metropolitan area with the recent retirement of Sheriff Bob Skipper.

The announcement of Skipper's departure came in the wake of voter approval of Ballot Measure 8, the November initiative taking away six percent of the retirement benefits to public employees. Skipper was just re-elected to a second, four-year term in May.

The race to fill the office is now heating up between John Bunnell, chief sheriff's deputy correction officer, named acting sheriff last month, Vera Pool, a sheriff's lieutenant who lost to Skipper in the last election, and assistant Portland Police Chief Dan Noelle. The special election will likely be held in March.

Bunnell 50, joined the sheriff department at the age 24 as a recruit, working his way through the ranks. He was appointed chief deputy of corrections last July.

As Bunnell made his mark in administration and field operations, he gained fame as a host for the ABC television series "American Detective" in 1992-93



Dan Noelle



Vera Pool



John Bunnell

and also appeared in the Fox network series "Cops."

How he manages the affairs of the \$53 million sheriff's budget in the coming months could determine his chances in the coming election. Supporters said his working relationship with others could give him the edge.

Bunnell told the Portland Observer that his priority is to diversify the department by pushing for more minority hiring, creating better employee opportunities, eliminating unnecessary positions and using the sheriff's budget to realize his mandates.

"I want to have a diversified personnel. I am not afraid to make change. We are in the position to change the old way of doing things," he said.

Bunnell said he will also concentrate on expanding jail space to house more criminals.

But Noelle said expanding jail space was his top priority. He indicated he would not eliminate any position in the sheriff's department.

He emphasized the need for cooperation among law enforcement agencies in the county.

"All of Multnomah County will benefit from a cost-effective and coordinated criminal justice system," Noelle agreed.

Noelle, 50, did pledge to eliminate duplication of effort and cut administrative fat.

He began his law enforcement career as a patrol officer on the inner east side of Portland and worked on the streets for more than 15 years.

He was the bureau's public information officer for three years and has the endorsement of the county district attorney Michael Schruck.

Pool who ran this race before said she would push for more prevention and corrections programs if elected.

"We must provide anti-crime programs for law-abiding citizens and incarcerate those who continue to commit violent crime and instill fear in our communities," she echoed.

She also believes that the need to be more pro-active in planning. Adding that the sheriff's office can no longer afford to provide the same number of services it provided in the eighties.

Pool has 20 years of experience in the criminal justice system with the past 14 years in management and five years at the supervisory level.

Her political connections and her past experience in the county sheriff race may help her bid for the job.